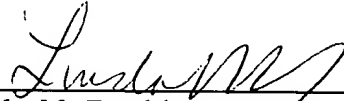


Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Buckley (31,003)
Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman
Intellectual Property Practice Group
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
Tel: (617) 439-4444
Fax: (617) 439-4170

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(Additions are underlined and deletions are bracketed)

IN THE CLAIMS

118. (new) A method of producing a composite solid polymer electrolyte membrane (SPEM) comprising a porous polymer substrate interpenetrated with an ion-conducting material, said method comprising the steps of preparing a mixture of the polymer substrate and the ion-conducting material and casting or extruding the composite SPEM from the mixture, and wherein the SPEM is substantially thermally stable to temperatures of at least about 100°C.

119. (new) A method of producing a composite solid polymer electrolyte membrane (SPEM) comprising a porous polymer substrate interpenetrated with an ion-conducting material, said method comprising the steps of preparing a mixture of the polymer substrate and the ion-conducting material and extruding or casting a composite film directly from the mixture, and wherein the SPEM is substantially thermally stable to temperatures of at least about 100°C.

120. (new) A method of producing a composite solid polymer electrolyte membrane (SPEM) comprising a porous polymer substrate interpenetrated with an ion-conducting material, said method comprising the steps of solubilizing the ion-conducting material and imbibing the porous polymer substrate with the ion-conducting polymer, and wherein the SPEM is substantially thermally stable to temperatures of at least about 100°C.

121. (new) A method according to claims 118-120, wherein the SPEM is stable from at least about 100°C to about 175°C .

122. (new) A method according to claims 118-120, wherein the SPEM is stable from at least about 100°C to about 150°C .

123. (new) A method according to claims 118-120, wherein the porous polymer substrate comprises a homopolymer or copolymer of a liquid crystalline polymer or a solvent soluble thermoset or thermoplastic aromatic polymer.